

In the claims:

For the convenience of the Examiner, all claims being examined, whether or not amended, are presented below.

Please cancel, without prejudice, claims 1-62.

1-62. **(Cancelled)**

63. **(Currently amended)** A preparation of a polypeptide comprising a hedgehog polypeptide sequence including at least 50 amino acid residues of an N-terminal half of a *hedgehog* protein, which polypeptide is formulated for topical application to hair skin.

64. **(Cancelled)**

65. **(Previously amended)** The preparation of claim 63, wherein the polypeptide includes at least 150 amino acids residues of an N-terminal half of the *hedgehog* protein.

66. **(Original)** The preparation of claim 63, wherein the polypeptide includes at least 100 amino acids of an extracellular domain of the hedgehog protein.

67. **(Previously amended)** The preparation of claim 63, wherein the polypeptide includes at least a portion of a hedgehog protein corresponding to a 19kd fragment of an extracellular domain of the hedgehog protein.

68. **(Original)** The preparation of claim 63, wherein the hedgehog protein is encoded by a gene of a vertebrate organism.